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Volume 8 | Issue 514
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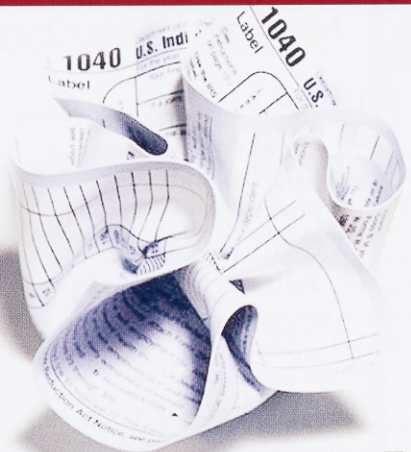
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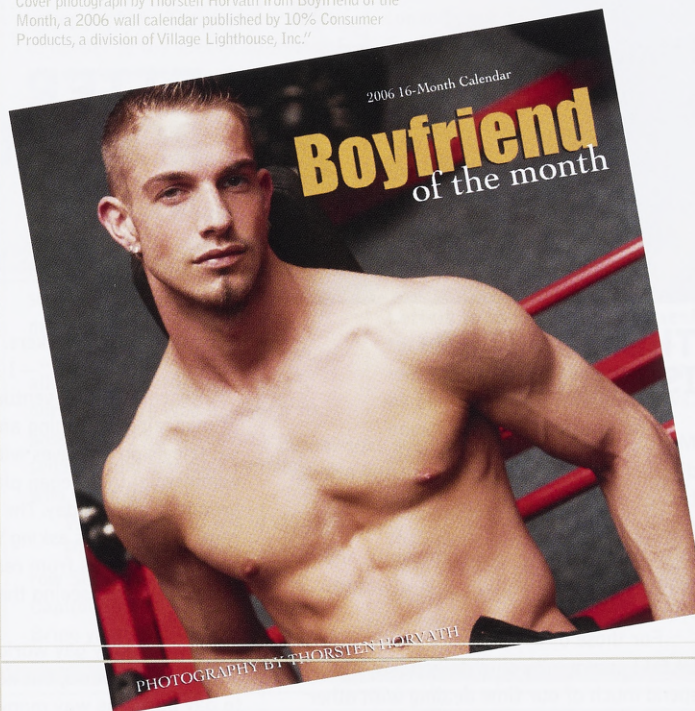
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Cover photograph by Thorsten Horvath from Boyfriend of the Month, a 2006 wall calendar published by 10% Consumer Products, a division of Village Lighthouse, Inc.



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DISPATCH



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

THE MONSTER IS STILL LOOSE

Most within our community have experienced discrimination because of our sexual orientation or gender identity. The fear or anger caused by this discrimination is what pushes us to band together as a community, and regardless of dysfunction, it is what keeps us together.

For those of us who work within the GLBTI community on a daily basis, who spend much of our time dealing with other GLBTI businesses and organizations, and dealing with a large GLBTI client base, it is sometimes easy to begin to experience a false sense of security about the anti-gay hatred that still exists in the world at large.

Working at MGW magazine, I spend my day surrounded by a staff that is gay and gay-friendly. The office is located in a quiet, predominantly Asian neighborhood. Each morning we wave to the very cool owners of Kiyo's Florist next door. We buy Pepsis and pot-stickers from Capital Tea Garden across the street and are always greeted with a smile. We watch the same parade of local residents walk past each day, as well as the cute guy across the street as he goes and comes home from work. It's a true neighborhood and we are a part of it. They know we are gay, and they don't care.

After work, I go to the Lambda Players Theatre where I am often directing a play (Countess Dracula opens Oct 21). The actors and tech crew are all gay and gay-friendly. We work together to present shows that represent GLBTI lives (did I mention Countess Dracula opens Oct. 21?).

So for me, from sun up until sundown I am surrounded by my community and don't even think about turning on the "cloaking" mechanism most of us have learned to use when entrenched in the heterosexual world. Walk a little deeper, talk a little deeper, discreet peeks instead of gaping stares at the

hot construction workers. It is a life where I am not "the gay guy"—I am simply "Matt."

Recently, MGW ventured past the world of magazine publishing and took to the local television airwaves with a promotional commercial that began playing on UPN31 around 5 times a day. The result was a barrage of daily calls asking for sample copies, encouraging calls from readers telling us how much they liked seeing the commercial, and hate calls.

Living in my gay world, reporting the hatred in the world, but not living it on a day to day basis the way many do, I was thrown to hear the voices of hate leaving recordings on the voicemail I check each morning. It took me back to when I first started being a part of the community 11 years ago. When I would go to gay establishments my family would instruct me of such things as, "don't sit close to front windows in case someone bombs the building. I listened to them then.

Recently, dealing with hate crimes for me was washing spit off our windows and door handles which could be a hate crime or any one of 1000 former employees—and rolling my eyes when someone drove by the theatre and yelled "faggots" to an all lesbian crowd. Now it's inside—it's found its way into my safe little gay-ghetto. It's made me realize how close my desk is to the front windows.

Those of us who work and live in the GLBTI community may sometimes lose perspective and forget about the seething anti-gay bigotry that still remains in the world. That false security leads to the destructive pattern of apathy and infighting that also does so much harm to our community. To all of you: wake up! The monster is still there and it's on your voicemail.

Matthew Burlingame
Editorial Director

MGW

momGuesswhat
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RESPONSE

PREVIOUS ISSUE



LAMBDA CENTER RESPONDS

It is disappointing but not discouraging to hear that our Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has vetoed AB 849. Our goal of same sex marriage is inevitable. It will happen. In 20 years, people from coast to coast will consider same sex marriage as a normal, everyday experience and wonder why anyone would ever have opposed such a common sense idea. We are not discouraged.

We are disappointed in our governor. In his campaign, he said same sex marriage was OK.

He also said he would not be beholden to special interests. Today he betrayed everyone in the LGBTI community he deceived into

voting for him. The governor did it to pander to the special interests of the so-called "religious right," the only group of people in California who still support him.

We believe the governor knows that signing AB 849 was the right thing to do. By forsaking us, he not only betrays the people of California, he betrays himself. We don't see how he can look himself in the mirror.

In closing, we want to thank all those hard working people in our legislature who fought for its passage and for the courageous senators and assembly members who voted for it.

We are going to win in the end!

Please join Equality CA tomorrow September 30 at the State Capitol 5pm at 11th and L Streets. Bring your families, signs and your

commitment to continuing the fight for full equality

**With great expectations,
Bill Snyder
Board President**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the editor may be sent to: MGW, 1103 T Street, Sacramento CA 95814. Letters can also be emailed to: editor@mgwnews.com. Letters & emails must include your name, address and valid phone number for verification purposes. Letters sent to the editor become the property of MGW and may be printed in whole or part. Letters may be edited for length.

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MIKE HYLZOFF

BOJANGLE'S DANCE CLUB

by Michael T. Johnston, II

THERE ARE THOSE IN THE COMMUNITY WHO ARE ICONS BECAUSE THEY ARE VOCAL—RECOGNIZABLE AT ALL THE EVENTS, SPEAKING BEHIND PODIUMS AND APPEARING IN THE PAPERS—AND THEN THERE ARE THOSE THAT ARE ICONS BECAUSE THEY ARE ALWAYS AROUND, WEEK AFTER WEEK DOING THEIR JOB AND MAKING OUR COMMUNITY BETTER FOR IT.

Mike Hylzoff is one of these people. A fixture at BoJangles nightclub since its early days in 1984, Hylzoff can be found there still, serving as manager of the club where many GLBTI youth get their first taste of the Sacramento GLBTI community.

Hylzoff, 39, was born and raised in Sacramento. "I've traveled around quite a bit. I've lived in L.A., San Francisco, Houston, Denver, even Kansas City. But Sacramento is home." Hylzoff claims he has known he was gay since age 5. Growing up in Roseville, he was openly gay in High School. "I had no problems—it was a very accepting environment. All I'm going to say is the captain of the football and boxing teams thought so too." Hylzoff's family is Pentecostal, making religion a fascination for him during college. He has a degree in Theology from Southwestern Bible College in Oklahoma. "It was actually a very liberal college, believe it or not," he says, "God has given us the intelligence to pick and choose which religions fit our lifestyle."

Hylzoff started in the bar business in 1984 as a bouncer for BoJangles, an 18-and-over nightclub then located on Folsom Blvd. near CSUS. After a break for a 3-year stint in the U.S. Army, he returned to BoJangles, then owned by Randy Chan and became manager for one year. In 1988, Hylzoff started working for FACES as a security officer—something he continues to do to this day. When BoJangles relocated to Club 21 in 2001, Terry Sidie tapped Hylzoff to manage it. "I was an obvious choice, having run the club before. I know the people, I know the environment. And I am grateful that Terry has placed his trust in me to do this."

Hylzoff notes many changes that have occurred over the past 20 years in Sacramento's GLBTI community. "It's a different mindset now. Back in the 80's, you never would have seen straight people in a gay bar like we do today. Being

gay is not the hideous thing it once was. This is a positive thing!" As well, many of the original customers from the previous days at BoJangles have changed as well. "I don't see many of them anymore. The club is simply too young for them. Young gay people can have a certain attitude—if you're old, you're old. This hasn't changed in 25 years!" Yet older patrons do frequent the club. "Straight men like younger women and Gay men like younger men. This is the nature of life. It's natural and positive."

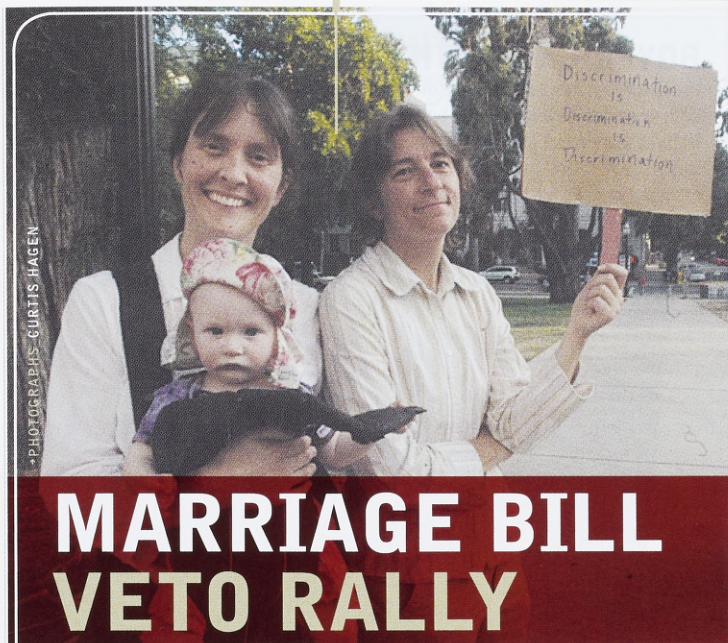
Hylzoff is also currently serving as Sacramento's Reigning Emperor with CGNIE. "I have been a part of the Court on and off for 15 years. Drag queens have raised millions of dollars locally and nationally for this community—many organizations would have folded long ago without this support." With much travel and fundraising to do, the second job keeps Hylzoff busy. "It's been a lot to handle in a short time. We did a fireworks booth this summer that raised \$2500. I've traveled and met many others doing the same thing—raising money for their community. It's been a great way to bond, get new ideas and grow." Strongly committed to the cause, Hylzoff sees the CGNIE as a positive force for the community, particularly its annual pride event, "Rainbow Festival is actually our largest annual fundraiser. It's kind of

the gay version of the Jerry Lewis Telethon."

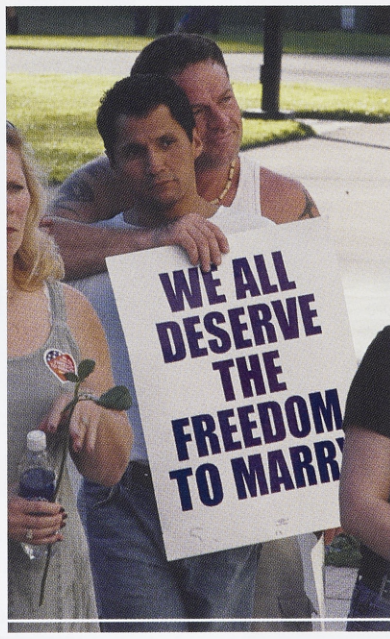
Hylzoff would like to see more money flow to several overlooked organizations. "Avalon House, WEAVE and Fairy Godfathers' fund need our support. I want to see some money flow to different groups—particularly AIDS charities." HIV and AIDS is a big issue for GLBTI youth, and Hylzoff sees many challenges every day at BoJangles. "I am very open minded, but I don't understand the current glorification of HIV. If you are a gift giver or bug chaser, when the chips are down you will have no one to blame but yourself. HIV is a horrible, horrible disease and these kids need to understand that."

Asked about his own future, Hylzoff beams. "I will work at BoJangles as long as Terry owns it. I am blessed to work for someone who has been Emperor, who understands charity. BoJangles is more than just a job—it's a family." This 'family' has produced many of the icons we see in other clubs. "Jon Williams, Tony Campos, Mark Simpson all started at BoJangles. It was the place to be, and since December 25, 1976 it still is for the young or young at heart."

Mike Hylzoff can be found at BoJangles inside Club 21 1119—21st Street, Sacramento www.clubbojangles.net



MARRIAGE BILL VETO RALLY



Community members gather outside the Capitol Building to protest Gov. Schwarzenegger's veto of a bill that would have made California the second state to allow same-sex couples to marry. The Religious Freedom and Civil Marriage Protection Act, which squeaked through the legislature along strict party lines, would have recast the state's legal definition of marriage as a union between two people rather than between a man and a woman. The Sept. 7 vote marked the first time that a state legislature approved a bill authorizing same-sex marriage without a court order.



DISCLAIMER

In the 8/1/05 and 8/15/05 issues, the comic strip below was run with an inaccuracy. In the second panel of the strip, a character stated: "First, did you know that Black women make up most of the new HIV cases." It should have read: "First, did you know that among all women, Black women make up most of the new HIV cases." We apologize for the error. Sacramento County DHHS/AIDS Education & Prevention Program.

DON'T LET YOUR HOOKUP, GET YOU CAUGHT UP!

Last time Darnell begins to rap to Tariq about safer sex!

5D

I'M STILL KICKIN' IT WITH FEMALES, SO I'M NOT TRYIN' TO GET CAUGHT OUT THERE. IF I CATCH THAT AIDS MESS, THEY'LL KNOW WHAT'S UP!

TARIQ, EVERYONE IS AT RISK FOR HIV.

FIRST, DID YOU KNOW THAT AMONG ALL WOMEN, BLACK WOMEN MAKE UP MOST OF THE NEW HIV CASES?

WORD?

SECOND, YOU DON'T CATCH AIDS, YOU GET HIV. THE VIRUS THAT LEADS TO AIDS.

I DON'T GET IT. WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HIV AND AIDS?

HIV IS THE VIRUS THAT CAUSES AIDS. YOU CAN BE HIV POSITIVE AND NOT NECESSARILY HAVE AIDS.

AIDS IS A CONDITION THAT CAUSES YOUR IMMUNE SYSTEM TO GET WEAK AND LEAVES YOU OPEN TO GET DISEASES WE USUALLY FIGHT OFF WITH NO PROBLEM.

HIV IS REAL SLICK. IT LAYS LOW, SOMETIMES FOR YEARS! THEN ALL OF A SUDDEN... IT CAN CREEP UP ON YOU AND BECOME AIDS!

MAN, THAT'S SOME WILD STUFF!

WAIT! THERE'S MORE...!

TO BE CONTINUED...

To learn more about HIV, get free condoms or take an HIV test contact Golden Rules Services, Men's Soul Food Project at (916) 446-AIDS

Sponsored by Sacramento County Department of Health and Human Services, African American Social Marketing Campaign ©2001 - 2004

As 2005 spins to a close

and a new year is on the horizon, it's time to begin our calendar shopping. The perfect calendar not only makes a statement about ourselves to others, but brings a smile of amusement or please to us as we check our dates and make our appointments. Now thanks to 10% Consumer Products, a division of Village Lighthouse, Inc., a leader in the calendar industry, the search for the perfect calendar is as easy as ever.

2006 CA

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Suggested Retail Price
PROVOCATEUR calendars: \$15.95
All others: \$14.95

These 2006 calendars are available at 10percent.com, a leading retail-shopping website for the gay community offering a variety of products including books, movies, clothing, music, greeting cards, calendars, accessories, gifts, novelties and much more. Order online or toll free: (888) 910-7372. The calendars are also available at local retailers.

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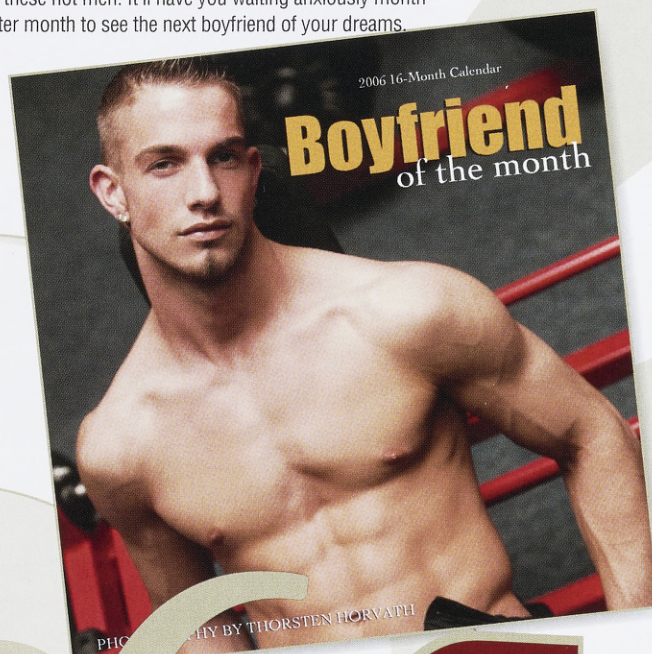
DOES YOUR MOTHER KNOW?

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BOYFRIEND OF THE MONTH

PHOTOGRAPHY BY THORSTEN HORVATH

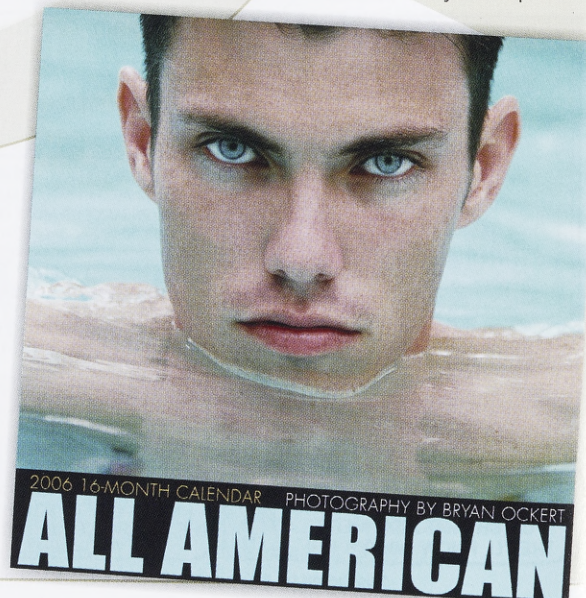
With sweet smiles and chiseled bodies, each month features that perfect guy that anyone would consider a "great catch." Horvath captures the enticing nature of each of these hot men. It'll have you waiting anxiously month after month to see the next boyfriend of your dreams.



ALL AMERICAN

PHOTOGRAPHY BY BRYAN OCKERT

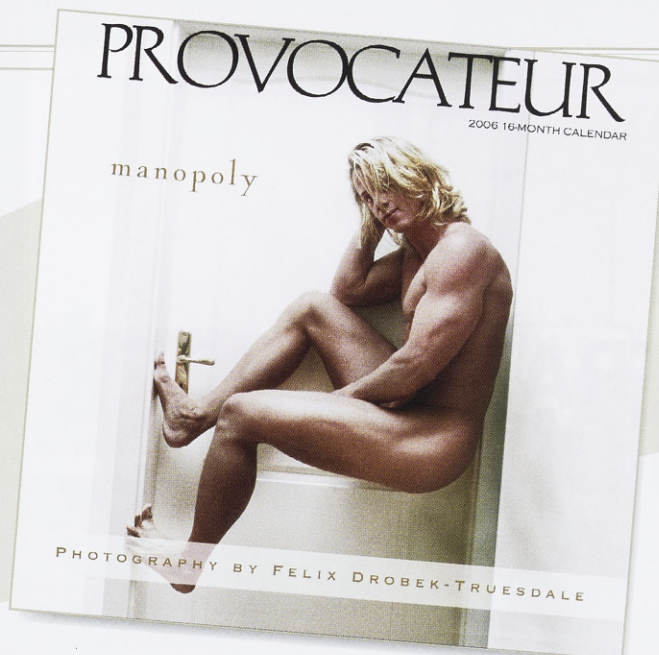
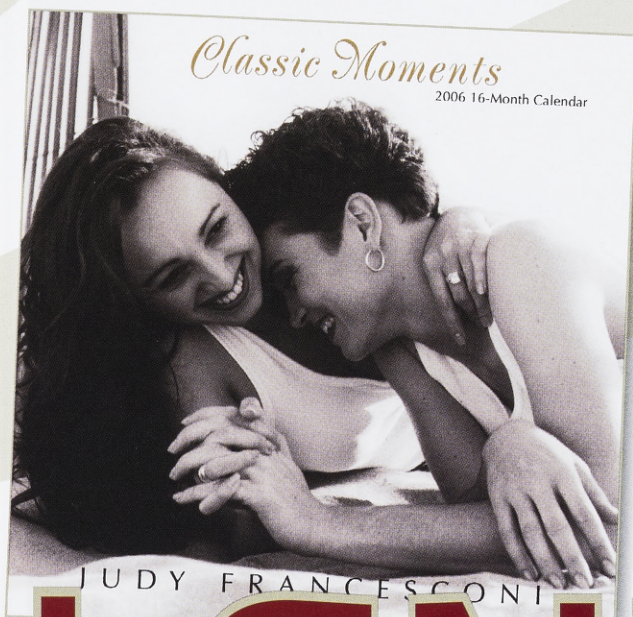
The innate handsomeness and charm of the all American guy is presented through this collection of photography by Bryan Ockert. He provides a sundry selection of hot, young American men captured in very natural poses.



CLASSIC MOMENTS

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JUDY FRANCESCONI

Judy Francesconi lends some of her best shots of classic moments shared by women. With so many great years of photography, Francesconi's library of classic lesbian imagery is second to none. This is a very endearing and passionate calendar.

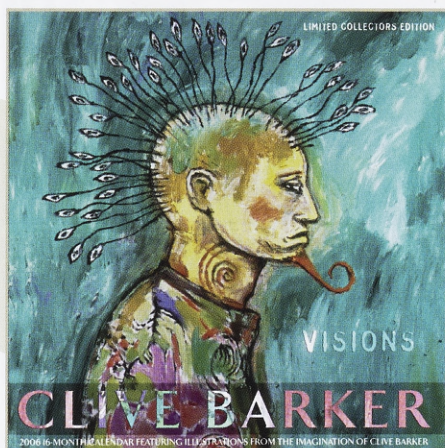


PROVOCATEUR: MANOPOLY

PHOTOGRAPHY BY FELIX DROBEK-TRUESDALE

Felix Drobek-Truesdale's remarkable talents are demonstrated through his ability to create erotic imagery photography that is creative as much as it is provocative. Interesting and unusual camera work come together to create fascinating works of art.

CALENDARS



VISIONS

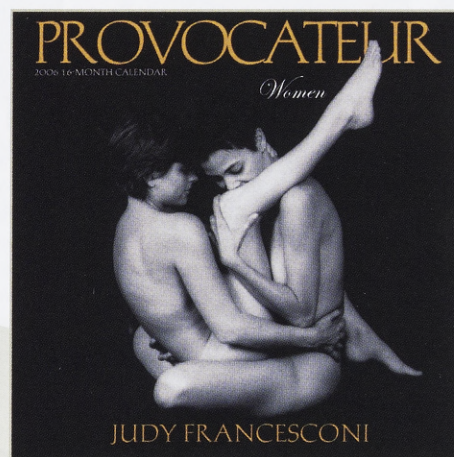
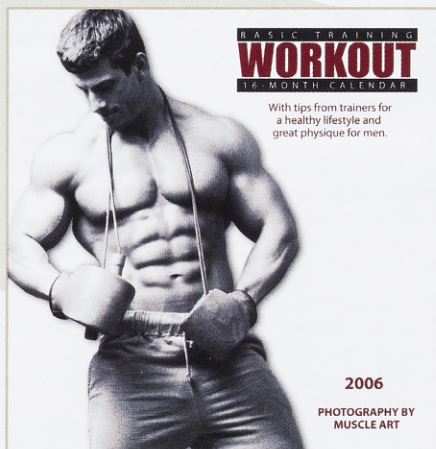
ARTWORK BY CLIVE BARKER

The brilliant imagination of best-selling author and acclaimed filmmaker Clive Barker comes to life in this collection of full color, dazzling, unpublished illustrations. Each evokes a sense of thought and mystery – some have a dark edge while others will simply make you smile. Barker has created fascinating characters that appear in bizarre situations. These special calendars are one-of-a-kind and are available in two different cover versions for collectors.

BASIC TRAINING: WORKOUT

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MUSCLE ART

This useful calendar for men is not only filled with hunky chiseled men, but also features tips from various trainers on diet and exercise. It's perfect for those who seek healthy lifestyles and will certainly motivate by the portraits alone!



PROVOCATEUR: WOMEN

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JUDY FRANCESCONI

On the heels of last year's extremely popular "Women" calendar, comes the 2006 edition. Here we see seductive and affectionately beautiful lovers in passionate situations that present love as art and two bodies as one.

TRANSGENDER TOLERANCE SPREADS

by Boyce Hinman
CHIEF LOBBYIST LAMBDA LETTERS PROJECT

GENDERPAC, A NATIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS ADVOCACY GROUP, RECENTLY ANNOUNCED THAT OVER 100 MAJOR US CORPORATIONS NOW HAVE POLICIES THAT BAN EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION AGAINST TRANSGENDER PEOPLE.

That is up from just one company (Translucent Technologies) in 1997. The number of companies adopting such policies has been accelerating each year. In 2003 just 18 major corporations adopted the policy, while 30 did in 2004. 41 corporations have adopted policies

banning employment discrimination against transgender people in just the first 8 months of 2005. For years now there has been a growing acceptance of gays, lesbians, and bisexuals in the work place. That same process now appears to be beginning for transgender people.



The list of companies with policies prohibiting transgender employment discrimination includes many mainstream companies such as IBM, Washington Mutual Bank, Wells Fargo Bank, American Airlines, Xerox and many others. It would be a good idea for our community to patronize the companies that have such policies and to avoid patronizing those that don't. To see the list of companies feel free to visit the Lambda Letters web page at: lambdaletters.org. Then click on "Transgender Friendly Employers".

Transgender job applicants can use the same list as they consider where to apply for employment.

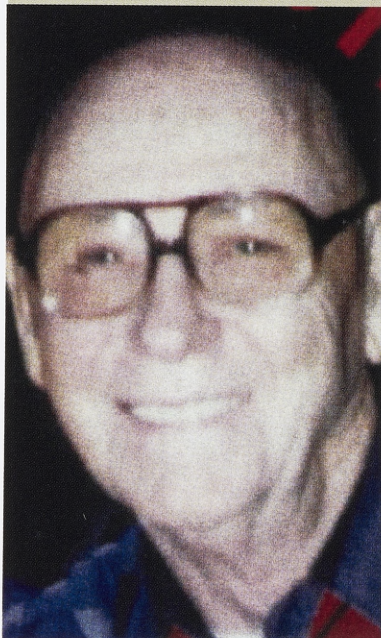
It is worth noting that virtually all employers in California are prohibited from engaging in employment discrimination against transgender people. This is the result of the passage of AB 196, by our state legislature, in 2003. The Lambda Letters Project worked very hard to get that bill approved.

People who think an employer has discriminated against them, because of their gender identity, can submit a complaint to the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH). To do this, start by calling DFEH at 1-800-884-1684.

Boyce Hinman may be contacted at lambdalp@aol.com

OBITUARY

STAN BOYDEN CAPTURED A DIFFERENT AGE



"As in any community, the elders leave behind gifts for those who come after. I will cherish the gifts of love, respect, and dignity Stan Boyden leaves for us. He watched the modern gay community come of age. We will carry on forever what Stan's generation set in motion, in his memory and in his honor," says Stan's friend Bob Young. Long-time Sacramento resident Stan Boyden died peacefully on Sept. 6.

Stan was born and raised in Utah, and served as a submariner in the Pacific theater during WWII. One evening in San Francisco—55 years ago—he locked eyes with Bill St. John, and they set out to build their lives together. Working in the city, they made friends with many of those who founded the first gay-rights movements (Mattachine Society, One, Daughters of Bilitus).

They retired early to Mexico, remaining there for ten years before

moving to Texas, where they started square dancing—a hobby that became a life-long passion for them. Learning that Sacramento had GAY square dancing, they moved here in the early 1980s and joined Capital City Squares and its advanced-dancing counterpart Prime-8s.

They also joined the TNTs, the straight club that teaches advanced and challenge moves, and eventually were elected co-presidents. In this capacity, they were instrumental in integrating the gay and straight square dance world. They attended numerous straight conventions, as well as every annual gay convention.

It was at these conventions that they met friends such as Bob Young, known to most as Tami Wynotte. Another square dance friend, caller Anne Uebelacker, remembers Stan's humor. One evening a group of friends got together in their hotel room. As

she sat on the corner of his bed, Stan grinned and said "This is the first time I remember having a woman in my bed!"

Freeman Stamper ("MamaJo" of the dancing-in-drag "Bradley family") says the Bradleys always felt welcomed and appreciated in Stan's presence, that Stan seemed to love the wild side and the glitz.

Stan leaves behind his devoted long, long, long-time companion Bill, his brother Tom of Carmel, and scores of friends in Sacramento, San Francisco, Mexico, and throughout the nation's square dance community.

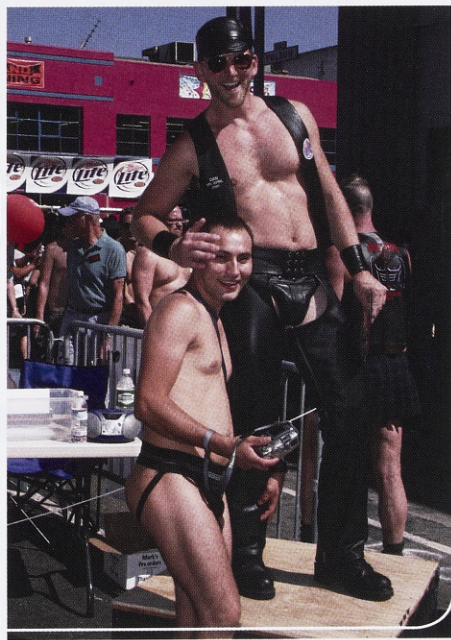
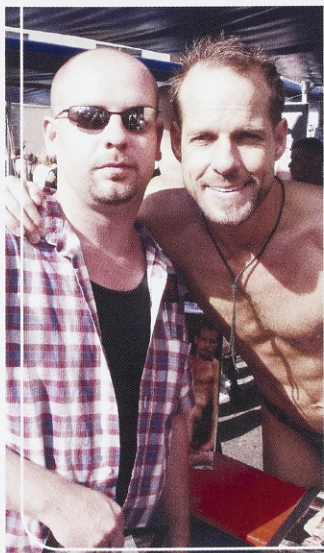
Memorials may be made in his name to the charity of your choice. In honor of his love of Sarah Vaughan (whom he had a chance to see at New York's Carnegie Hall!), let's sit back and listen to her sing "Lovers Concerto," and toast Stan and Bill's 55 years of memories and good times with the dry gin martini they loved.



PHOTOGRAPHS: LEON FREDETTE
+ PETER JAMES

FOLSOM STREET FAIR

The Folsom Street Fair is the largest leather, alternative and fetish street fair in the world with over 400,000 annual attendees. Sunday, Sept. 25, 2005 marked the 22nd year of the Folsom Street Fair. Folsom Street Events is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization and all proceeds raised from the events are directly returned to San Francisco charities. For more information about the Folsom Street Fair logon to folsomstreetfair.org



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SPECIAL ELECTION 2005

OF COURSE, THERE IS NOTHING PARTICULARLY SPECIAL ABOUT THIS ELECTION; ONLY BECAUSE ALL ELECTIONS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE SPECIAL AND IMPORTANT.

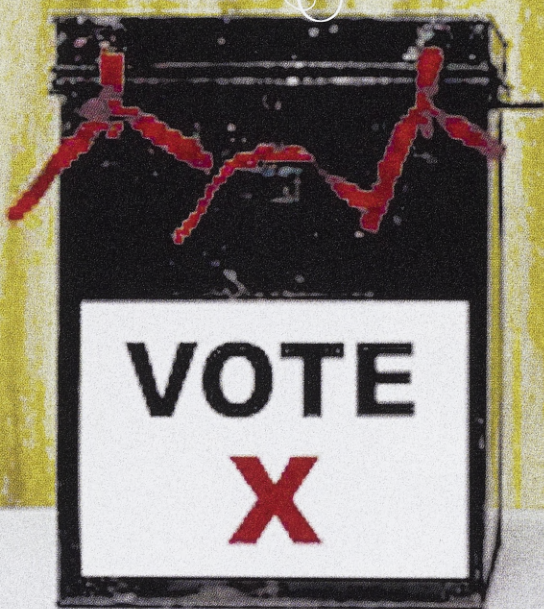
What does make this election interesting is that it involves only initiatives, including four of which might make or break our celebrity governor's agenda not to mention his hopes for re-election.

Now, we all understand the fundamental importance voting has as a corner stone of this thing we like to call democracy; but what people might forget is how

crucial that role becomes when we are voting as a means of direct democracy. That is, voting on ballot propositions. Forget representatives; forget legislatures and senates; when we vote on propositions we the voters get the final say on actual law. It's kind of refreshing and perhaps a little scary. With that said it now becomes our responsibility to inform ourselves of the pros and cons of each proposition and then make a thoughtful and constructive decision on Election Day. While it might be convenient to just vote "yes" on a certain Governor's package of initiatives or likewise try to send a message by voting "no" to all of them, we all know that it would be so, so wrong. With that said, let's take a hard, unbiased look at the first three propositions on the ballot.

ARE YOU READY
FOR THE SPECIAL
STATEWIDE ELECTION?
ALMOST SOUNDS FUN
DOESN'T IT? ANOTHER
SPECIAL ELECTION
AND THIS ONE SO SOON
AFTER THE LAST.

by Eric Meyer



Proposition 73

Proposition 73 would amend the California Constitution to require that physicians give parents of minors 48 hour notice before performing an abortion. It does not require that physicians get parents consent, only that they notify the parent(s) or guardian. There are certain exceptions that would apply under this proposition, including minors whom are emancipated from their parents, cases involving a medical emergency and those minors who have obtained a waiver from their parents. Also, pregnant minors could request a waiver from a juvenile court, which if granted would allow them to terminate their pregnancy without their parents ever getting involved at all. A judge would have to determine if the minor was mature enough and/or that parental notification would not be in their best interest.

As for the arguments in favor of the proposition one of the most significant noted by the proponents was that potentially two-thirds of under age pregnancies were the result of sex with men of an average age of 22.6 years. The proponents argue that such acts of statutory rape and possible sexual abuse go unreported when abortions are kept private by minors. The opponents to 73 rebut with the argument that a notification law actually puts minors in danger, forcing those unwilling to notify their parents or to appear in court to seek illegal and perhaps unsafe abortions elsewhere. So, the real question at hand here remains, do parents have the right and need to know if their under age daughter is getting an abortion?

Proposition 74

Prop 74 involves teachers and the ability to dismiss them from their jobs in a more efficient manner. Under current law, new teachers remain on a probationary period for two years. At the end of the two year period school districts either choose to hire the new teachers full time, or dismiss them without a required reason. If the teachers are in fact hired after the probationary period they can only be dismissed by a specific process which includes a 30-day notice on the intention of dismissal, a formal hearing as to the reasons for dismissal and the right of a teacher to appeal the decision to the courts. Also, a 90-day period is provided to allow a teacher to improve their performance and possibly remained hired. What prop 74 would do is change the probation period from 2 years to 5 years and eliminate the 90-day period in which a teacher might improve their performance. Also, Prop 74 limits the amount of documentation required to prove that a teacher is a "bad performer". All that would be required for dismissal is two consecutive unsatisfactory evaluations from their school.

Those in favor of this proposition cite that the dismissal process for teachers is too extravagant and too expensive when it comes to removing poor performing teachers. They list approximately three instances where school districts racked up extensive legal fees and ultimately had to pay some teachers to quit. They do not provide any statistics when it comes to the amount of poor performing teachers that might exist or if school districts find that unfit teachers are holding the education process back. The opponents to 74 claim that it will not aid the performance of students and that teachers can be fired under current law. The opponents also question the wisdom behind a five year probation period when a two year period is already in place. They do not address the issue of cost associated with the current dismissal process, however. So, the question here is are poor performing teachers a rampant problem for California schools and do school districts need an easier way to fire them?

Proposition 75

Public employee union dues are at stake with prop 75; or rather, how those unions choose to spend those dues. To clarify, public employee unions include things like firefighter, police, nursing and teacher's unions. Currently unions of this nature collect dues from all the members of a certain group, like the group consisting of all California

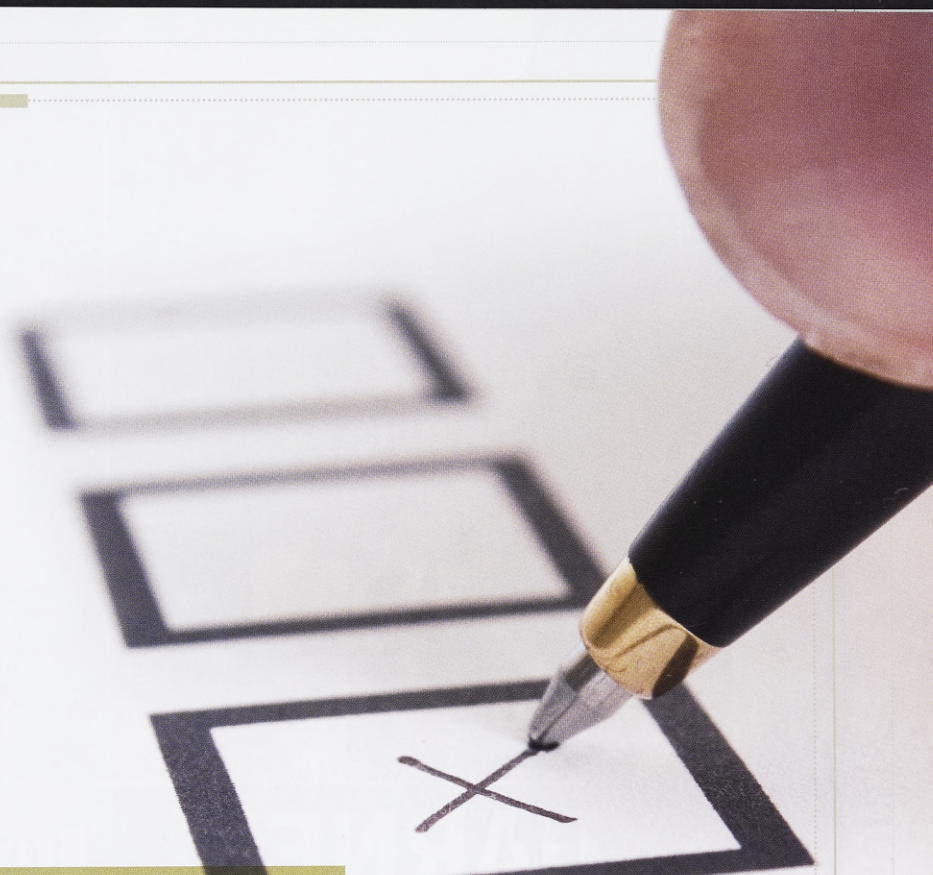
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firefighters. An individual firefighter might choose not to officially join the union, but that person must still pay a certain amount of dues to cover the collective effort that the union has over all firefighters. That is, when a union negotiates a new contract with the state even non-union members are affected by the bargaining and thus must contribute for that service. Sometimes these unions spend dues on political issues, as in a campaign against this very proposition or a candidate that the union views as unfriendly toward their cause. Under current state law it is forbidden to spend any of the dues collected from a nonmember of the union on any political purpose if that individual objects to that use of their money. To enforce this process public employee unions are required to publicly report what amounts of dues go toward political issues each year. What Proposition 75 changes in the law is that non-union members no longer must simply request that their dues do not go toward political issues, but instead requires that the unions get the individual consent from all of the members in their group before any of their dues go into a political campaign. It switches the burden of consent from the non-union members to the union as to the function dues may be used.

Those in favor of Proposition 75 claim that it is unfair for non-union members to

have their dues used for political activities that they might not agree with. They claim that the political contributions that certain public employee unions have waged have resulted in the movement of a political agenda that some public employees might not agree with. The opposition to Prop 75 argues that non-union members are already protected in that they can request that their dues are not spent on political activities. As to union members they state that if the majority of the union consents to the dues and how they are spent then they are operating under a democratic system. Some members might not agree, but if they are members its only fair to go along with the majority of that group. Then the question here is in two-parts. First, are public employee unions unfairly forcing their political views on some of the members they are representing and/or are some individuals outside of these public employee unions trying to reduce the over all power that these unions have in the state?

Unfortunately, we can't cover each of the eight propositions here in an adequate manner. If you are a registered voter you should have received a Voter Information Guide from the Secretary of State's office. This guide is essential for anyone who plans on voting. If you haven't got your hands on one yet, or you haven't registered to vote yet check out The Secretary of State website at www.ss.ca.gov.





DARNELL STEPHENSON

URBAN FITNESS & WELLNESS CENTER

by Michael T. Johnston, II

FITNESS AND HEALTH ARE BIG ISSUES TO THE GLBTI COMMUNITY. RECENT REPORTS HAVE SHOWN THAT THIS DEMOGRAPHIC HAS SOME OF THE HIGHEST RATES OF DRUG ABUSE, ALCOHOL ABUSE, SMOKING AND OTHER LESS-THAN-HEALTHY PURSUITS.

This is something Darnell Stephenson would like to see changed. Owners of Urban Fitness and Wellness Center, Stephenson and her partner Julie Frey are serious about healthy living. "We will become politically stronger when we lead healthier lives. Julie and I want to be a part of that transition," notes Stephenson.

Stephenson is 44 years old and has been in the fitness industry for the last 10 years. "I was in physical therapy after a serious accident 12 years ago," she notes. "It really helped me through some difficult times. This got me focused on my own personal health and wellness and opened a new career for me." Many will remember Darnell Stephenson as the friendly, upbeat bartender from FACES' video bar for 17 years. "I love FACES, Terry and the whole family. Leaving last September to pursue this business was tough, but I realized I was getting older and those late nights just weren't working for me any more." She notes however that she would love to make a future guest appearance at FACES. "I still run into old bar customers. Brian McMartin and Terry Sidie are now Urban Fitness clients. I do sometimes miss it, but fitness is now my focus."

Now fully engaged in the business of health and wellness, Stephenson and Frey have created a welcoming environment at Urban Fitness. Entering the building, one is immediately greeted with a sense of warmth and relaxation. Cool earth-tones accented with tastefully placed artwork and fixtures supplement soft background music—and an array of exercise equipment that is quite impressive. "We have Nautilus equipment, leg press/hack squat, a peck deck, lap pull-down machine, cable crossover, stationary bikes, treadmills, elliptical and free weights with benches," she notes. Urban Fitness also features a private massage center with therapists on call. "We are a full-service fitness center. We also specialize in nutrition counseling, Reiki and energy movement."

Personal training is the key to a successful program, according to Stephenson. "Both Julie and I spend time up front with our clients. We assess their needs

on a case-by-case basis. It's very individual." Needs assessment and goals are followed by a custom-designed program to improve one's strength. "Your body begins to atrophy at age 26. Your metabolic rate is reduced and you lose muscle mass. It has been shown how important it is to regain this and maintain a healthy bone structure as you age." For some, this involves simple workouts while others require more comprehensive solutions. "For most people it's more about fitness than nutrition. Some come here just to use the equipment", she notes. But for many, the key is a personal touch.

"Julie and I are a force to be reckoned with. We're tough," Stephenson says. "But we're not extremists. We want our clients to feel taken care of—from the environment to their health needs". Personal training is not for everyone, she notes. At \$45 per hour, most clients are in their late 30s or older. "We are planning to offer limited memberships at \$35 per month", she notes, "but we want to keep the business small and intimate. We want to offer hour-long one-on-one techniques and strength training in a personal way." This also means a commitment from the client as well. "A balanced life is the way to go. Eat well, exercise and incorporate wellness into your life. Overdoing it is not the way to

go. A good program is about balance, not excess", she says.

Yet another GLBTI-owned business with an extremely diverse clientele, Stephenson claims she would have it no other way. "We are everybody's business. We are gay-owned, but half our clientele are straight. Progressive, accepting people simply gravitate toward us." Stephenson takes pride in the demographic breakdown between men and women at Urban Fitness. "When we started, it was mostly women. Now it has shifted and we're serving a 60% male clientele. This is such a positive thing," she says. "We love what we do. I have always loved the service industry—this is why I was a bartender for so long. In fact, during workouts some of my clients joke that I was nicer as a bartender!"

Looking forward, Stephenson and Frey are in the business for the long haul. "We want to do more workshops for the community. More nutrition experts, outside trainers coming in," she says. "But where we truly excel is as personal trainers. It's all about the individual touch. This is the most important factor to a successful program and a healthy lifestyle."

Urban Fitness and Wellness Center is located at 2525 J Street, Sac., 916.492.2525 urbanfitnessandwellnesscenter.com or darnellstephenson@sbcbglobal.net

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BRIAN McMARTIN



McMARTIN REALTY

by Michael T. Johnston

PROFESSIONALISM, COMMITMENT AND DRIVE—THESE ARE THREE WORDS THAT ONLY BEGIN TO DESCRIBE **BRIAN McMARTIN**. THIRTY-NINE AND SINGLE, McMARTIN IS THE OWNER OF McMARTIN REALTY, SACRAMENTO'S RISING STAR IN THE REAL ESTATE INDUSTRY.

Raised in Bangor, California, a small town of 500 north of the Bay Area, McMartin lived on a ranch until age 18. He and his brother bought their first house at age 18 and the Real Estate bug bit him. "My agent was wonderful. She became a mentor to me. She introduced me to the business." Working three jobs and going to school, McMartin graduated from CSUS with a degree in sociology but also became licensed in Real Estate at age 21. He worked for Sunrise Real Estate and Dunmore Homes, as a project director for a condominium development in Santa Barbara and eventually for Bennett & Compton in Lodi. A break from work in 1995 brought McMartin into the GLBTI community. "I went back to school to rediscover myself—to do all the things I didn't do the first time. I studied foreign languages and was an exchange student in Mexico."

In 1998, McMartin began a new phase in his career with Mark Whistler and Whistler Land Company. "I have the greatest respect and appreciation for Mark. He loaned me the money to get started." Leaving Whistler in 2002, McMartin embarked on his current venture McMartin Realty. "I never wanted to own my own business when I was younger. But I felt a void. There are many GLBT-owned Real Estate companies in other cities—why not here?" he asks. "I wanted a full-service Real Estate firm that is a part of my own community. I wanted somewhere a GLBTI person could pick up the phone to call and feel comfortable." This does not mean, however that McMartin Realty is a GLBTI-only company. "We are more than just another gay-owned business," quips McMartin. "We don't wear a badge or have pictures of Marilyn Monroe on the wall. We are about professionalism in our image and our treatment of clients. In fact, 50 percent of my agents are straight. We have an extremely diverse office."

McMartin Realty prides itself on standing out in its field. "We pay attention to every client who comes through that door," he says. The firm features the most up-to-date technology, including a large Internet presence. "We take particular pride in

our agent training and follow-through. We don't take shortcuts when working with clients. Our agents meet weekly and we discuss every single client and case in the business. We share resources and information. We work as a team—sometimes competitive in a friendly way—but a team nonetheless." In fact, on a weekly basis the most spirited person is awarded the "Team Spirit Bear", a badge of honor in the company. "We trust one another. This is the spirit that we show to our clients and makes all the difference."

A new venture for the agency looms. "Presently we have around 23 agents and we've sold 138 homes to date in 2005," he notes. "Our focus has been residential property and income-producing residential Real Estate." With explosive growth over the past two years, the firm is now ready to move into commercial property concerns as well. "When our current facility at 21st and K became available, I took the opportunity knowing we had extra space to fill. We still have room for another 15-20 agents," he says. Deeply committed to the charitable concerns of the GLBTI community,

McMartin has been involved with many local organizations during his life. McMartin is a member of Stonewall Democratic Club of Greater Sacramento, the Rainbow Chamber of Commerce and was one of the co-

founders of Lambda Community Fund's History Project. He now serves as Board President for Breaking Barriers. "I love Sacramento and the community we have here. It is an honor to be a member. I am now able to fulfill my dreams—to do what I do best and still support my community and work for same-sex rights."

On the current state of the market, McMartin is far more positive than many in the industry. "We're in for a soft thud, not a pop," he says. "The market is returning to normal growth patterns. Single-digit annual growth is sustainable." What does this mean to the prospective buyer or seller? "Sellers need to be more realistic about how they price their properties. Homes are on the market a bit longer, but they are selling," he notes. "Buyers are able to breathe a bit more now. It creates some challenges for the agents, who need to be more creative, but it is still a positive-growth environment." McMartin Realty appears up to the challenges ahead. "Gay or straight, we want to do better for our clients. This business is closely connected to my own identity. It's not just about money. How we work reflects directly on me. Our goal is to make sure we provide the highest level of service to everyone who calls."

McMartin can be reached at 916.447.1600, mcmartinrealty.com



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SCREEN

Everything Is Illuminated

Starring Elijah Wood,
Eugene Hutz, Boris Leskin.
Written and directed
by Liev Schreiber.
(RATED PG-13, 104 MIN.)

FAMILY TIES

by Stefan Gruenwedel

What does a neatly dressed, introverted American searching the Ukrainian countryside for his Jewish forebears have in common with a disco-dancing hipster from Odessa and his blind grandfather who drives a rusty jalopy with a seeing-eye dog in the back seat?

Not much but, as they say about families, it's the ties that bind. *Everything Is Illuminated* is a story about a journey through a family's history and the incongruous—and deeply funny—situations that make the journey memorable.

Jonathan (**Elijah Wood**) isn't related to any of these crazy Ukrainians who take him on this private tour but they share a common thread in history that broke violently one day in 1942 when Nazis wiped a shtetl off the map and murdered its inhabitants.

Although tinged with darkness and misfortune, *Everything Is Illuminated* is surprisingly upbeat as it winds its way through its tale.

Jonathan is a lifelong collector of things that tie him to his relatives—photos, hair clippings, false teeth, anything he can get his hands on—which he stores in Ziploc bags that he thumbtacks to his bedroom wall.

One day he gets an old photograph of his grandfather—of whom he is the spitting image—and a pregnant woman posing in a field. This photo haunts Jonathan. He must find out who she is—identified only on the back as Augustine—and how come his father survived the pogrom and immigrated to the United States.

Meanwhile in Odessa, Alex (**Eugene Hutz**) and his family conduct private tours for “rich Jews” who want to trace their family's paths back to the villages where they came from. Alex, who yearns for America, doesn't see any sense in coming all the way to his country just to look at a bunch of gravestones. But it's the family business, which his grandfather (**Boris Leskin**) started, and now his authoritarian father (**Oleksandr Choroshko**) runs. No

ELIJAH WOOD AND EUGENE HUTZ IN THE STIRRING NEW FILM *EVERYTHING IS ILLUMINATED*.

one in the family thinks much of the Americans they drive around the countryside but they're happy to take their money.

As Alex and his grandfather become familiar with the odd American in their midst, however, they come to respect him more. In fact, they discover they have more in common with him than they ever suspected.

Although this film is based on the novel by **Jonathan Safran Foer**—also the name of the main character—it actually involves just a few elements of this complex and multilayered story. Considering how inventive this film is, one can only imagine how fun the whole novel is—probably why it was a bestseller a couple of years ago. Not bad for a first-time novelist in his 20s.

Not too shabby for debut director **Liev Schreiber** either (most recently seen in *The Manchurian Candidate*), who wrote this first-time screenplay. *Everything Is Illuminated* shows he's more than up to the task of telling an emotionally rich story in an interesting manner.

The dialog sounds like it was penned for the ear, not just to

propel the plot. Alex always calls Jonathan “Jonfan” because that's how he hears the name. His vocabulary belies its likely manner of instruction too—using old novels and poetry instead of language tapes. He says repose a lot, for example, instead of sleep. And grandpa's seeing-eye dog—named Sammy Davis, Jr., Jr. of all things—is always the “seeing-eye bitch.”

There are also the inevitable cultural clashes. Jonathan's admission that he's a vegetarian doesn't go over well with his meat-eating hosts.

The music becomes a character too, with its soulful recurring theme by Tin Hat Trio and lively songs by Gogol Bordello, a Ukrainian “gypsy punk band” fronted by Hutz himself.

The countryside evokes the same past that Jonathan is seeking. Old, rustic, and sad: it's seen its fair share of pain as well as tender care. Too bad it's not really the Ukraine landscape but that of the Czech Republic. Such are the realities of Eastern European film production.

Everything Is Illuminated opened October 14 at the Crest Theatre. everythingisilluminatedthemovie.com

Now that we've moved into fall, Hollywood is finally releasing its higher quality films.

Unfortunately, some of the summer dreck is carrying over into autumn.

SWANNER AND JUDD

SWANNER

Serenity ★★★

The Corpse Bride ★★★

JUDD

History of Violence ★★★ 1/2

Into The Blue ★

The Corpse Bride ★★

JUDD Tom, you happened to get away with only seeing the two gems we're reviewing, while I got stuck watching the jiggle-fest known as *Into the Blue*.

SWANNER Who was jiggling? Josh Brolin, Scott Caan or hunky Paul Walker?

JUDD You can have Scott Caan. He looks like a mouth-breather just waiting to put on 100 pounds. Anyway, *Into the Blue* was a sunken treasure/pirate movie that was really nothing more than a showcase for Jessica Alba's tits and ass. The story was long, drawn out, and convoluted. It was about two kids (Walker and Alba) who live in the Caribbean and have nothing but love. Walker's friend (Caan) visits from the States with his tart du jour (Ashley Scott). They go treasure hunting, they find cocaine, treachery ensues and the audience gets an hour and fifty minutes of Alba's nipples in a bikini. The only good thing about this movie was that you can see Paul Walker's junk in his thin, thin, thin board shorts for a fraction of a second.

SWANNER Just a fraction of a second? So it's definitely a film to Netflix? I love the DVD freeze frame function! I went to see *Serenity*, which is a theatrical offering of the TV series *Firefly*. It's a sci-fi story about a rogue group of freedom fighters helping to liberate the universe from the Empire...I mean

the Alliance. It was a fun film with great special effects and decent acting and story for a film like this. Even though I never watched the series I was never left feeling like I didn't know what was going on. The cast was actually very cute with special props to Adam Baldwin (the mouth breather and not a Baldwin brother) who is just yummy.

JUDD There are mouth-breathing Baldwins—hello, Stephen. The night you were seeing *Serenity*, I went to see *A History of Violence*. I really didn't know what to expect until I saw "based on the graphic novel" in the opening credits. I had an idea that the movie was going to be more violent and graphic than what the previews let on, but I didn't know HOW much more graphic and violent the movie was going to be. Holy smokes! There was blood and chunks of body blown all over the screen! And then the sex scenes... I'm no prude, but I was shocked. SHOCKED! But regardless of the violence and sex, it was an excellent film with a great plot. The plot being about a close-knit family in a small town. Patriarch Tom Stall (Viggo Mortensen) attracts the attention of some mobsters after killing some crooks that were robbing his cafe. It turns out Stall used to be a hitman, unbeknownst to his family, and the mobsters are there for a little payback.

SWANNER I still need to see that. I can always get a popcorn refill during the sex scene. There's a woman

involved...right? Moving on before my lunch comes back up, we both went to see *Corpse Bride*. I really liked it, although I must say it was a bit short. One thing that surprised me was how romantic it was. It was a nice movie with which to snuggle up to someone sweet—didn't you think?

JUDD Snuggle up to someone sweet? Ugh, just because you nearly lost your lunch doesn't mean you have to make me lose mine. I liked *Corpse Bride*, but it was one of those movies that I would never want to see again—and no, it's not because of the romance. The story was OK. From what I understand it's based on a Russian folk tale. It was about a man who accidentally marries a corpse while practicing his wedding vows in the woods. Those Russians are so cheery! The animation was OK, but nothing special after all the other stop-motion films that have been released in the past decade. The film was enjoyable, but ultimately forgettable.

SWANNER Forgettable? I thought it was really good and I'd like to see it again. I'll probably wait for DVD but I think you're being a bit of a bitch on this one. Oh wait, you thought *Sound of Thunder* would one day be a cult classic...now it all makes sense. Drowning any kittens this weekend?

JUDD Kitten drowning is for amateurs. I'm going to SF this weekend to harpoon some sea lion pups. ←



PAUL WALKER MAKES A SHIRTLESS PHONE CALL IN *INTO THE BLUE*.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF COLUMBIA PICTURES

SCREEN

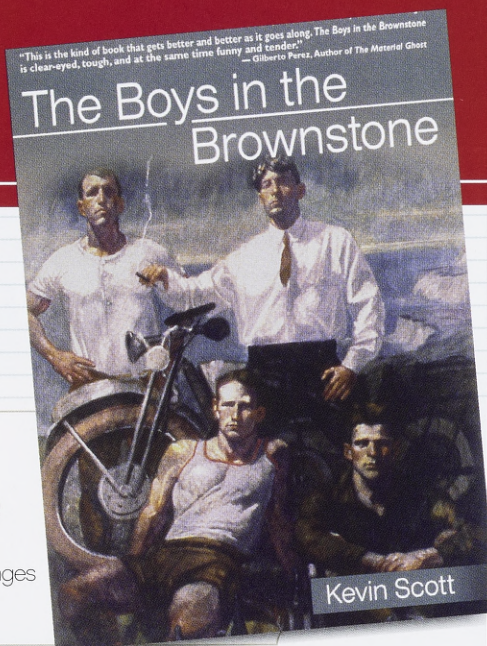
culture

nineteen

19

The Boys in the Brownstone

Kevin Scott
Paperback, 261 pages
HAWORTH PRESS
ISBN: 1560232951



MR. BROWNSTONE

compiled by Michael Shanahan

There's a lot more to gay life in the big city than *Queer Eye*, *Will and Grace* and *Sex and the City*!

A "gentlemen's bar" on Manhattan's Upper East Side, the Brownstone is a quaint oasis of Chippendale and Sondheim in a wasteland of chrome and club kids. But the boys in the Brownstone aren't all gentlemen. And their lives are anything but quaint. This sparkling collection of witty, affectionate—and disturbing—tales of the city will induce smiles, chuckles, and chills as it weaves through a colorful assortment of characters linked together in the most surprising ways. Join them at the Brownstone as they gather together—some for the first time, others for the last—on the night before Christmas Eve in this smart and funny first novel that's not about lifestyles—just lives with plenty of style.

At the Brownstone, you'll meet: a soap opera writer who's written a dozen weddings but can't get his own nuptials under control; a psychotherapist on Prozac with a wicked crush on one of his patients; a college professor on the tenure tightrope who falls in love with a cute young creep; an art dealer who goes off his rocker when his lover is assaulted; a candidate for city council who must assist in the suicide of his oldest friend; a bartender from Cuba, a gay father from Brazil, a black American blue blood, a sexy Italian male nurse, and more. "Who are all these people?" you may have asked yourself, some night, as you looked around a crowded bar. *The Boys in the Brownstone* has the answers for one bar on Manhattan's Upper East Side on the night before Christmas Eve.

A richly detailed slice of gay life in the big city from screenwriter Kevin Scott (Key Exchange), *The Boys in the Brownstone* is alive and kicking with the ups and downs of the real world where gay men may be hot, funny, and fashionable but are also real men with jobs, families, and fears. With humor, heart, and a little bit of courage, they deal with the issues of gay marriage, gays in the priesthood, AIDS, diversity, narcissism, consumerism, circuit parties, and everything else that comes with the territory when you're living in gay New York City, circa 2004.

It is rare that a fictional book of this quality comes along. When it does, it's important that it be celebrated and made a model that other models strive to reach. It is also important that consumers let publishers know the type of quality fiction they demand to read.

PRINT

MONEY WITHOUT MATRIMONY

THE UNMARRIED COUPLE'S GUIDE TO FINANCIAL SECURITY

Sheryl Garrett, CFP, and Debra A. Neiman, CFP, MBA

Money Without Matrimony: The Unmarried Couple's Guide to Financial Security

Sheryl Garrett,
Debra A. Neiman

Paperback, 288 pages

DEARBORN TRADE

ISBN: 1419506889

Love isn't always followed by marriage. While gay couples don't have the legal rights of marriage, there are also many straight couples that find themselves making the choice to be together without the added benefit of the wedding ring that symbolizes the promise of matrimony. Some of these people we know rather well: Oprah Winfrey, Stedman Graham, Goldie Hawn, Kurt Russell. They, like gays, are part of an unmarried couple. But that does not mean that they, and you can't share financial and other obligations with your partner. *Money Without Matrimony* answers the questions unmarried couples have when developing plans to secure their financial futures including: the Pros and cons of merging your finances; Determining ways unmarried partners should own property; Strategies to ensure that your wishes will be carried out under all circumstances; The importance of partnership agreements and other legal documents for unmarried couples.

Authors and Certified Financial Planners™ **Sheryl Garrett** and **Debra A. Neiman** guide you and your partner through the necessary steps to protect each other from potential financial ruin in much the same way that federal laws help protect married couples. If you are one half of an unmarried couple, you owe it to you and your partner's financial future to read *Money Without Matrimony*.

FAMILIES of VALUE

Personal Profiles of Pioneering Lesbian and Gay Parents

Robert A. Bernstein

author of *Straight Parents, Gay Children*

Families of Value Personal Profiles of Pioneering Lesbian and Gay Parents

Robert Bernstein

Paperback: 264 pages

MARLOWE AND COMPANY

ISBN: 1560256389

Families comprised of same-sex parents are examples of "the ultimate triumph of courage and integrity," argues Bernstein, author of *Straight Parents, Gay Children*. To demonstrate this courage, he assembles a collection of real-life stories of gay parents' struggles to raise their children in a society hostile to their lifestyle. From a gay Protestant minister to two lesbian police officers hoping to extend death benefits to each other, these narratives offer insight into what motivates same-sex parents in their fight for legitimacy and acceptance—namely, the wellbeing of their children. For example, Bernstein chronicles the plight of Steven and Roger, foster parents to five children born with HIV, who are fighting against the state's attempts to remove one of the boys from their care. One of the most enlightening chapters, "Cherry-Picking the Truth," debunks many of the myths about children of gay parents and reveals the particular hardships that they endure. Unfortunately, however, the book focuses too much on the parents' struggles for social change and not enough on their family relationships. Thus, while this is an intriguing study of those leading the movement for same-sex parenting, it lacks the passion and emotional depth that would make these profiles truly resonate with readers.

SOUND

BACK IN THE DAYS

compiled by Michael Shanahan

Known for her incredible vocal talent, her acting ability and for the public persona that has taken on a life of its own.

She is Dolly Parton; an American icon. Her new CD release strays from her usual original work, to explore her favorite songs and feature contributions from musician friends **Norah Jones, Nickel Creek, Keith Urban, Roger McGuinn, Alison Krauss**, and many others.

On October 11, Sugar Hill Records released *Those Were The Days*. A year in the making, the CD of era-defining songs from the 1960s and 1970s is an astonishing collection of indispensable classics, performed in Parton's signature style with a top-notch list of friends.

Parton, who produced the album, invited several of the artists who wrote or made these songs famous to sing with her. Renowned musicians **Roger McGuinn** (of The Byrds), **Kris Kristofferson, Judy Collins**, and **Tommy James** make appearances on *Those Were The Days*. She also asked recent chart-topping artists **Norah Jones, Keith Urban, Nickel Creek, Lee Ann Womack, Rhonda Vincent, Joe Nichols** and **Alison Krauss** to join her in the studio.

The Country Music Hall of Famer, Grammy winner and Oscar nominee



said, "I am really very proud of this album. I love all of these songs and all of the artists who performed, it just felt special from the moment the concept came to my mind. I knew I had to produce it myself in order to get all of my ideas across exactly as I wanted them to be presented. I really hope people enjoy it. I

knew I enjoyed making it."

Recorded in Nashville, *Those Were The Days* retains the bluegrass-inspired sound that earned her two Grammys and generation after generation of devoted fans for her previous four albums on Sugar Hill Records. The album includes

a group sing featuring a menagerie of Grand Ole Opry legends. Capping off the album is Parton's unique version of the peace anthem "Imagine."

In her remarkable career, Dolly Parton has successfully navigated both country and pop charts as well as successful forays into television and film (*9 to 5*, *Steel Magnolias*). The legend has authored more than 3,000 songs including the hits "Coat of Many Colors," "Jolene," "Tennessee Mountain Home," and "I Will Always Love You." From collaborations with Porter Wagoner to Emmylou Harris and Linda Ronstadt (the Grammy Award-winning Trios series) and the recent Grammy-winning acoustic albums, her contribution to American music and entertainment cannot be underestimated. ←



DOLLY PARTON REVISITS THE SONGS OF YESTERYEAR.

LISTEN UP!



THE FEM-TASTIC ROBERTA CHEVRETTE

by Ricky Anaya

"Fem-tastic! Describes Sacramento's Queer, Activist, and Feminist Folk-Country-Bluegrass-Rock singer/songwriter **Roberta Chevrete**.

Roberta, a mere 24 years old, has accomplished much in the last few years including releasing two full-length CDs that have earned the attention of listeners both locally and nationally and even as far as Germany and abroad. Her first CD *Woman Mother, Earth, Sky* was released in March of 2004 followed by a second release just a year later *Miss America*. It's hard to believe that Chevrete has only been performing music for three years.

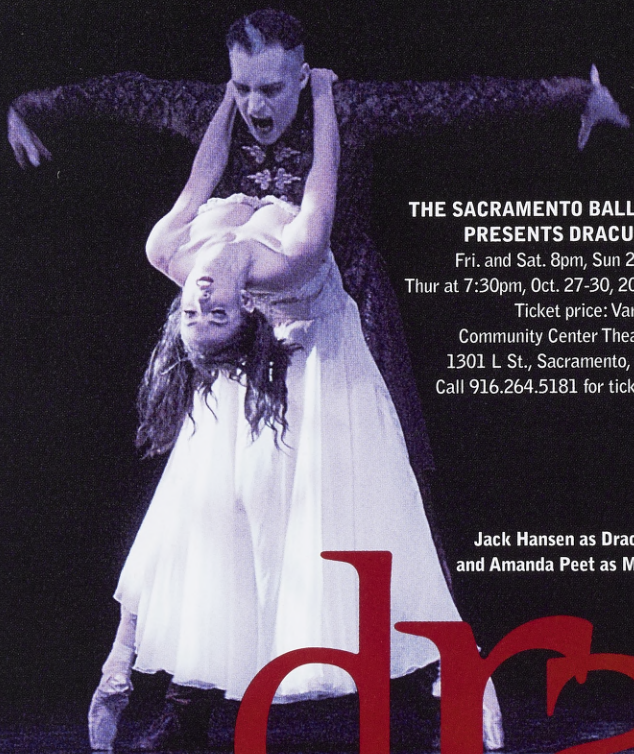
"Can you hear this?" begins with a powerful message; "there's a war going on, a war going on, does anybody understand, does anybody think it's wrong, there's a war going on" and continues "yeah sometimes I just feel so powerless, cuz I know my vote deosn't count for shit, and I wonder what happened to democracy, cuz I know this isn't it, how did a man without a clue become the president?"

Her song "Indulge" begins with "I'd like to indulge myself in secret pleasures, I'd like to taste you on my lips, I'd like to explore every detail of your body, the curve

of your breasts, the lines of your hips...." Chevrete's bold and no-apology style is attractive to say the least.

She is backed by Ken Burnett on mandolin and harmonies and John Bellizia on banjo and percussion, although you might catch her solo. Chevrete's shared the stage at local folk festivals that featured poet/singer Utah Phillips, Sacramento's Jackie Greene as well as many local and touring artists.

You can catch Roberta performing locally Oct 19th at The Art Foundry Gallery. Visit her website for more information: robertachevrete.com



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The Lambda Players Theatre presents **COUNTESS DRACULA** by Matthew Burlingame & Tom Swanner, directed by Lambda Players Artistic Director Matthew Burlingame, Tech direction by Kurt Kurtis. Oct. 21 thru Nov. 19, 2427 17th Street (Off Broadway), Sac., Tickets: 916.444.8229 or lambdaplayers.com

The New Conservatory Theatre Center presents the world premiere of **CRUCIFIXION**, by Terrence McNally, directed by NCTC Founder and Artistic Director Ed Decker. thru Nov. 6, 25 Van Ness Ave., S.F. Tickets: 415.861.4914 or nctcsf.org

Sacramento Theatre Company presents **A RAISIN IN THE SUN** by Lorraine Hansberry, A Raisin in the Sun, won both the New York Drama Critics Circle and Tony Awards for Best Play before becoming a feature film in 1961. Thru Oct. 30, Wed. 6:30pm, Thurs. 12:30pm, 8pm, Fri. 8pm, Sat. 2pm, 8pm, Sun. 2pm, Prices: \$22-\$36, 1419 H St. Sac., Box Office: 916.443.6722

Runaway Stage Presents **VICTOR/VICTORIA** by Blake Edwards. Directed by Bob Baxter. October 21 - November 13, 2005, \$17, 8 pm Fri. & Sat., 2pm Sun., 24th Street Theater 2791 24th Street, Sac. 916.207.1226, runawaystage.com

SACRAMENTO BALLET STAKES CLAIM IN STOKER CLASSIC

dracula



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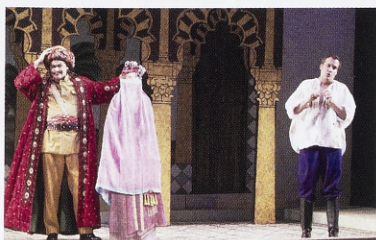
opera season

by Wayne R. Anderson

During the seventeenth century the Ottoman Empire posed a severe threat to Europe, but by Rossini's day its power had waned so it was safe to make light of it. Yet Europeans remained fascinated by its exotic world, especially the inner workings of the harem.

The SFO opened its fall season with Rossini's 1813 light-weight, but engaging, comedy "*L'Italiana in Algeri*" ("The Italian Girl in Algiers").

The piece is a "rescue opera"—sort of a frothy "*Fidelio*." Mustafa, the Turkish governor of Algiers, is tired of his wife and wants to add a passionate Italian girl to his harem. When Isabella, in search of her lover Lindoro (who is now Mustafa's slave), gets stranded in Algeria and is captured by Mustafa's men, the Turk is overjoyed. The shrewd Isabella, however, easily outfoxes him as she and Lindoro escape back to Italy.



ITALIAN GIRL IN ALGIERS

OPENS SAN FRANCISCO OPERA'S 2005 SEASON

Olga Borodina sang Isabella in the first few performances, but American mezzosoprano **Vivica Genaux** (SFO debut) later took over the role. A specialist in baroque opera, Ms. Genaux has a light but very agile voice. She sang Isabella's intricate arias effortlessly, yet was still able to project some strong sustained dark tones. However in the ensembles her small-scale voice was often lost, offering little vocal presence. One missed the smoky rich tones of a larger voice. She is a natural actress and a beautiful young woman, so it made sense that she could reduce the pompous Mustafa to an obedient lap dog. But in the final analysis, her Isabella lacked charisma. She was more good-naturedly spunky than connivingly shrewd.

As Lindoro, tenor **William Burden** had good looks and energetic acting going for him. But he was overly taxed by the music (at the verge of cracking several times) and too often sang with a colorless bleaty tone. Though energetic, he never really got into his role. He seemed like a clean-cut high school football hero-type from Kansas, hardly someone that the clever Isabella would find interesting. Bass **Dean Peterson** (SFO debut) was the star of the show as the smitten Mustafa. He sang well, but it was his

acting that stole the evening as he pranced around the stage like a love-sick puppy. If everyone performed at his level, we'd have had quite a show.

In the small role of Isabella's friend Taddeo, **Ricardo Herrera** stood out. His modest but smooth bass-baritone coped well with the music, and his acting was outstanding. He practically turned Taddeo into a major character.

Robert Wood conducted with grace and verve. While building Rossini's famous crescendos excitingly, he also emphasized the elegant lyricism of much of this score. At times the music sang as though it were by Mozart.

The simple sets, from the Santa Fe Opera, consisted mostly of a series of colorful ornate arches flanked by some palms. The action was moved forward by about a century to around 1920, the period of the disintegration of the Ottoman Empire. Rather than being shipwrecked, Isabella was stranded when her plane crashed in the desert. This change did no harm to the opera, but it didn't help it much either. The Turkish costumes, of course, were gorgeous. Rossini's bubbly little comedy got the season off to a respectable, but not memorable, start. ←

DINE

OPEN PARKING

by Randy Hartley

There's nothing like Sundays when you can set aside your worries and gather with friends before the workweek begins...

So, slip into your brunch coat (seen worn in old "B" movies) or better yet your pajamas, relax and read on... The very portmanteau word, "brunch" originated as a slang expression. The first known recording in print (and was acceptable) appeared in *Punch* in 1896! You and I have updated it one additional step to mean a social event where we see our friends in the light of day usually after 11 a.m. when we can make ourselves presentable to the world.

The typical brunch menu will most always include Eggs Benedict, a Country Breakfast with ham, bacon, sausage and eggs your style, quiche and omelets. The traditional beverages are Bloody Marys (first invented at the Racket Club in Palm Springs) screwdrivers, mimosas and the Ramos Fizz.

Capitol Garage opened its doors in 1992 to fill a much-needed coffee house niche in the downtown Sacramento area. Operating out of a converted automotive repair facility Capitol Garage Coffee Company, as it was then known, sat at the corner of 15th and L Streets—the perfect location to attract an eclectic mix of patrons ranging from local neighborhood urbanites and state workers to young hipsters and State Legislators.

While known as a great place to grab a quick morning coffee on the way to work or somewhere to enjoy casual conversation with a good friend Capitol Garage also became a hot spot known for being on the cutting edge in the live music scene hosting acts from all over the world. The café also garnered national notoriety when Hollywood captured the café's unique atmosphere on film in the major motion picture *Trekkies 2*. As the café continued to achieve success it began to capture more and more local recognition. One such person saw the even greater potential for this local hot spot and in 1995 Jerry Mitchell purchased Capitol Garage. Jerry was later joined by partner John Lopez in 1996 and together the two began to grow and diversify the business.

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Opportunity reared its head abruptly in early 2003 when they learned that their lease would not be renewed. While the reality of losing their lease in at such a prime location was definitely unsettling, the opportunity for change it presented was exciting. After 18 months of designing, planning and building at a new location their dream became a reality. The new Capitol Garage opened late October 2004 at 1500 K Street, just a block from its original location, in the bottom corner of new modern parking garage—a fitting

location to keep with their roots

The mix of a full bar and espresso drinks with a variety of food options seems to satisfy everyone's thirst and appetite. As well as the new atmosphere lends itself to a social setting where friends can hang out and have fun. In spring and summer months with the full garage doors open the Garage transcends itself to an open air café along with its two outdoor patios. The atmosphere was key and modeled after Café's in Italy that Jerry and John were inspired to create with the new location.

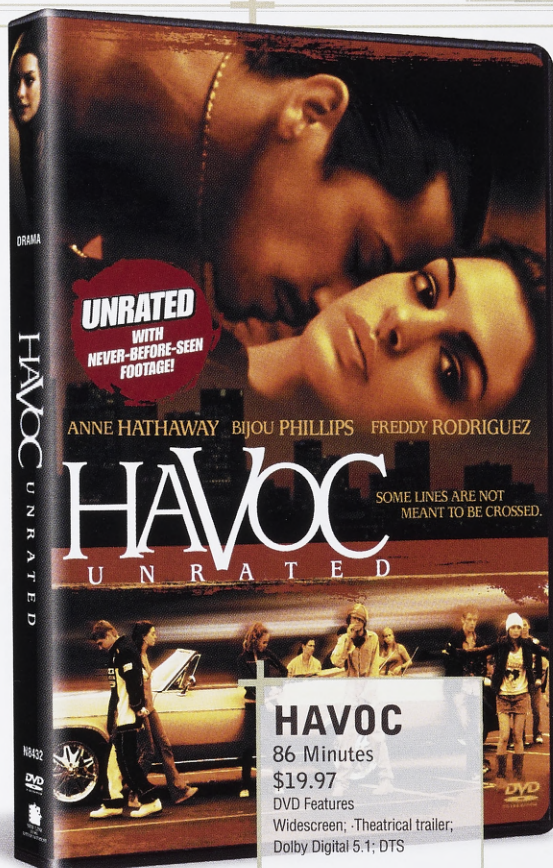
Food: The addition of a full kitchen has led to the creation of a new menu. The Garage now serves breakfast, lunch, dinner and a Sunday Brunch where you are encouraged to wear your PJ's and get awesome Bloody Marys for only \$2. By the way, the Bloody Marys are excellent and all call liquor is the standard here... The new menu was all made possible by the expertise of Executive Chefs Gary Kneeland and Geoff Potts.

Libations: Their focus has always been great coffee so for the new location they added a drip bar and organic coffees roasted exclusively for them. The new bar that commands your attention when you first walk through the doors serves up an array of concoctions carefully mixed by the skilled bartenders. Beers on tap and local wines are offered but ask to see their list of tantalizing specialty drinks from the full bar.

Music is still key to the Café. On most evenings you can find some type of entertainment to keep your fingers snapping. From open mic on Tuesdays, Jazz on Thursdays, live music on Fridays and Saturdays and Karaoke on Sundays. Oh and yes they are devoted Kings Fans so the game is always on at least one of the 3 TV screens. ←



RANDY HARTLEY AND FRIENDS BRUNCH AT CAPITOL GARAGE.

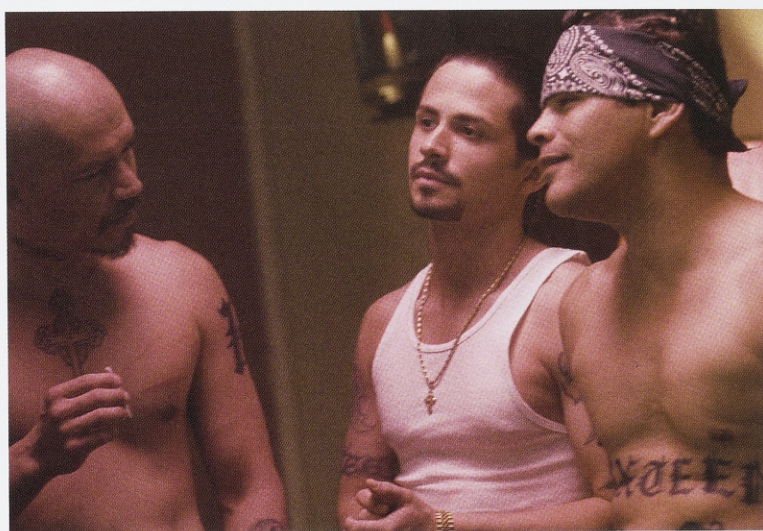
**HAVOC**

86 Minutes

\$19.97

DVD Features

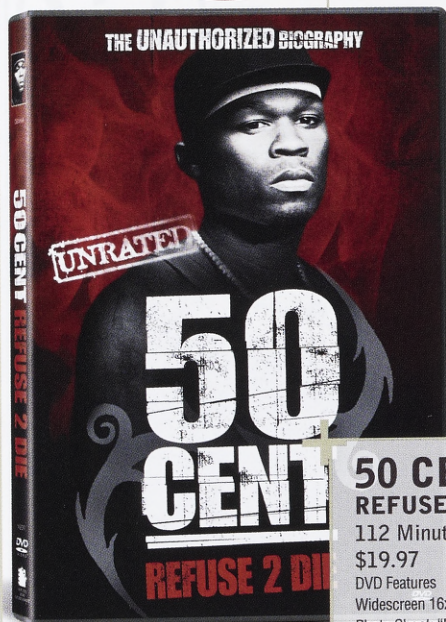
Widescreen; Theatrical trailer; Dolby Digital 5.1; DTS



JOHNNY VASQUEZ ("MANUEL," LEFT), FREDDY RODRIGUEZ ("HECTOR," CENTER) AND RAYMOND CRUZ ("CHINO," RIGHT) STAR IN NEW LINE HOME ENTERTAINMENT'S SHOCKING DRAMA HAVOC.

The *Princess Diaries* star Anne Hathaway takes a gritty turn in award-winning director Barbara Kopple's electrifying new drama *Havoc*. Available on DVD in both unrated and R-rated versions from New Line Home Entertainment, *Havoc* is an edgy look at a group of rich teens who, so bored with their privileged existences, adopt an urban street lifestyle that ultimately results in harrowing tragedy. Written by Academy Award-winner Stephen Gaghan (*Traffic*), *Havoc* features a strong ensemble that includes Joseph Gordon-Levitt (*Mysterious Skin*), Bijou Phillips (*Bully*), Freddy Rodriguez (HBO's *Six Feet Under*) and Mike Vogel (*The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants*).

THE DVD shelf

**50 CENT:
REFUSE TO DIE**

112 Minutes

\$19.97

DVD Features

Widescreen 16x9; Animation Gallery; Photo Shoot; "Massive Swerve" animation featurette; "Making Of"; Animation Sketches & Storyboard

Triple threat superstar Aaron Carter (*Fat Albert*, TV's *7th Heaven*) captures the hearts of teens everywhere with his headlining role in the delightful new family comedy *Pop Star*. The DVD, available on November 8, 2005, from New Line Home Entertainment, also stars 70's pop idols David Cassidy (TV's *The Partridge Family*) and Leif Garrett (*Dickie Roberts: Former Child Star*) and will leave teens singing and dancing to the beats and lyrics of their favorite teen heartthrob.



NEW LINE CINEMA
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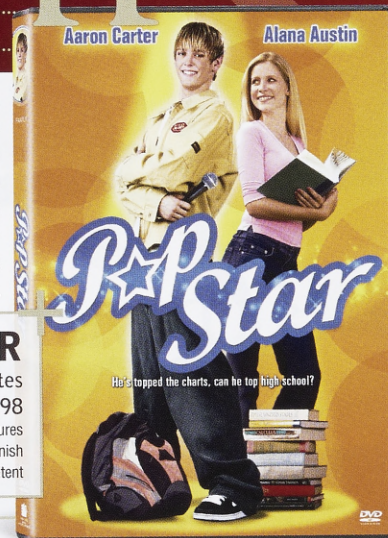
POP STAR

94 Minutes

\$24.98

DVD Features

Widescreen; Theatrical trailer; Spanish Subtitles; ROM content



Hip-hop's biggest superstar, 50 Cent, shocked the world by defying outrageous odds to become one of the music industry's most successful crossover artists of all time. The unauthorized documentary, *50 Cent: Refuse to Die*, available on DVD on November 8 from New Line Home Entertainment, chronicles his inspirational journey from the streets to the stage and his unprecedented acceptance into the heart of mainstream culture. After thriving for several years in the hip-hop underground, 50 Cent's hip-hop anthem "In Da Club" propelled him to instant stardom. Despite his infamous past and headline grabbing run-ins with the law, fans of all ages and races embraced 50 Cent as *Get Rich or Die Tryin'* flew off the shelves, instantly becoming a number one album on Billboard's Hot 100 chart.



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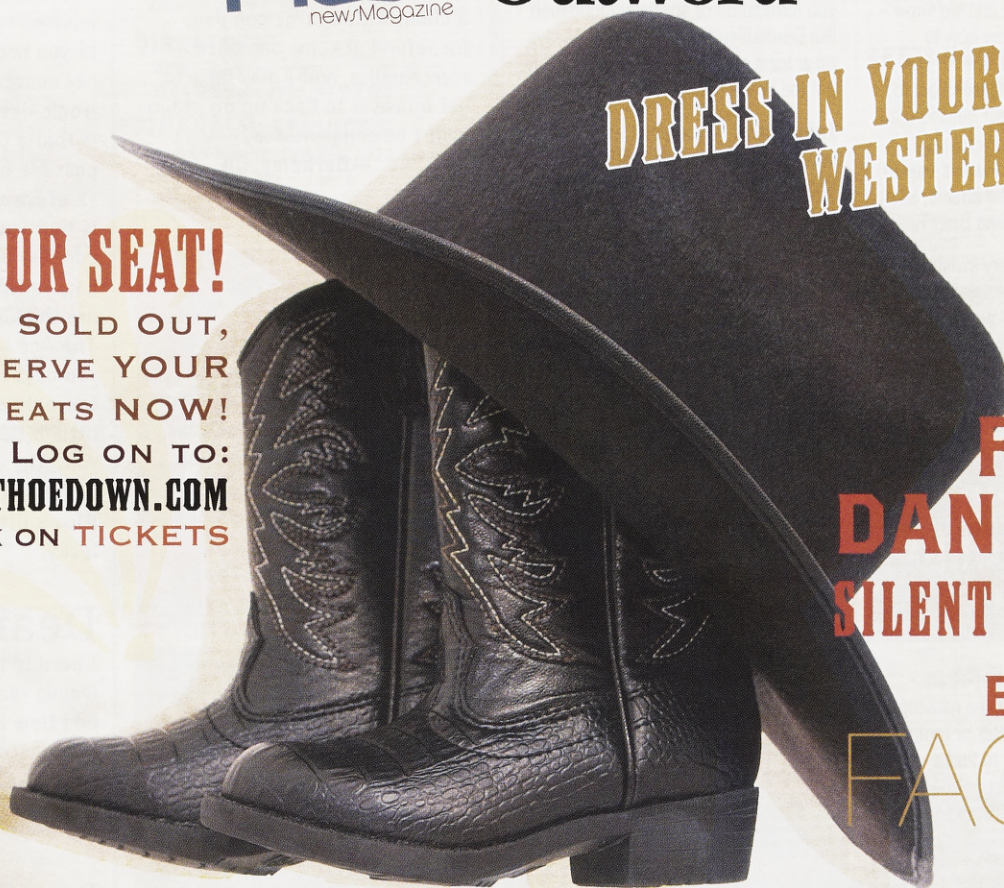
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WISDOM FROM THE DIVA:

Halloween is upon us. And it occurs to me that we, being the Gay Community, should declare this is our official Holiday. It is definitely the time of year when out creative juices are flowing and we show everyone else, that we know how to throw a party. It is also the time of year that us professional Drag Queens get to make light of all the amateur queens (and Kings) in the rest of our community. It truly gives you a chance to walk a mile in my heels. Before you hit the streets, take note of some of my first time Drag Tips!

Shoes Why is it that every swish homosexual suddenly walks like a trucker when they put on a pair of pumps? Get your shoes first and walk around the house to break them in and to get use to walking in them. Remember to walk heel-to-toe to give you that Super Model Catwalk strut. If you boy shoe size is 5-10, size up 1 size in women's shoes. If you are size 11 & up-go up 2 sizes. If you are having problems getting shoes in your size, find one of the divas and beg them to lend you a pair of their. Try greasing their palms, or some other body part, in remuneration.

Make-up Remember that you are men, some of you anyway, the makeup techniques of you Hag, sister or mother are not going to work. Try to find a professional Make-up Artist or queen to the slap the paint on. Don't wait for the

day of your debut to find someone, artists are in high demand this time of year. If you have a dark or heavy beard-use either some Clown white base under you foundation or specialty foundation like Dermablend or CoverMark. Always do at least one practice session to work out the problems before the big night!

Intimates If you don't want to shave your legs, buy a pair of flesh-tone tights to put under you hose. Some of you may require 2 pairs to cover those hairy posts. If you are hung and planning to wear something short or flipping your dress up a lot, you will need to learn to tuck properly. I would be glad to personally instruct you on proper tucking techniques. (It is things like this, that I do for my community, that makes me so LOVED!) This can be done with Duct Tape (OUCH!) or by getting a dance belt from a dancewear store.

Hair Don't just purchase a wig and toss it on your head, wondering all the time why it does not look like the one on the stand in the shop. It requires professional styling and products to get the look and to keep it in place. You should put a skull cap on first, to pin the wig to.

Hopefully these hints will help bring out the inner Diva in you! Remember "Camp Drag" and Tacky Drag or two totally different things. Go out and make me Proud!!



tarotscopes

Dear Jessica,

I have recently encountered some legal difficulty. I have filed a claim with a large company for refund of some damaged merchandise, and I may have to get a lawyer to back up my claim. Will I be compensated?

—Berkeley, CA

Dear Seeker,

The situation is a matter of control issues versus your emotions (King of Cups). The person who has been handling your claim doesn't like your attitude when you deal with him or her. You have to change your tactic and stop making this an adversarial situation. Instead, try to find ways to energetically "invite" the people you are working with onto your team—show them your feelings instead of your muscle (8 of Pentacles.) I don't think you need a lawyer, but you do need to expect that this is going to be a challenging situation full of paradoxes (Queen of Cups). Be charming, sincere, and firm. Don't let your fear get the best of you (8 of Swords). You will feel like you are losing when you are winning, but the outcome will be satisfactory.

Dear Jessica,

My girlfriend and I are suffering lesbian bed death. I am really sad about it. How can I put the spark back into the relationship?

—San Francisco, CA

Dear Seeker,

This is not lesbian bed death. It is a lull caused by comfort and a sense of fulfillment. You recently

put your neck out to prove to your GF that she really has your heart (The Fool). Now that she knows she has it, she feels less inclined to need to prove herself to you because all the power is in her court (The World). Isn't life ironic like that? The good news is that a balance of power is possible between the two of you (2 of Swords), but the bad news is that your ability to experience careless passion with one another has waned (The Devil). You guys are thinking about it too much. The Ace of Swords tells me that you guys need to have an excuse for make-up sex. Pull away a little bit and let her come get you. The outcome? The Chariot: aggressive passion and ardor. Plus a little spanking if you're lucky.

Dear Jessica,

I need to lose weight, but I am feeling really lazy. It's hard to find time in the day to exercise, even though I know that's just an excuse. Kick my butt a little, please?

—Olean, NY

Dear Seeker,

No use crying over spilled milk. What's done is done. You can't take back the ice cream sandwiches or the French fries. So stop AGONIZING about it and just start doing a little something where you are (5 of Cups and Strength). You will have to face your limitations and swallow your pride at first (5 of Swords) but at least you'll be on your way. Patience, grasshopper (3 of Wands). The pounds will come off, but it will take a while.

READERS

Jessica Rabbit is a lesbian psychic and tarot reader. You may contact her on the web at sacredtarot.com



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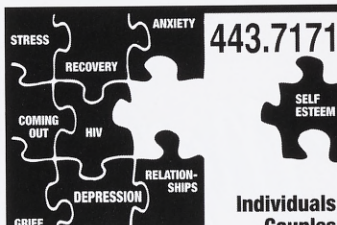
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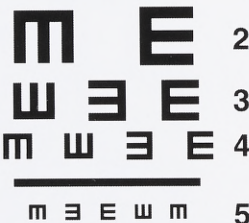
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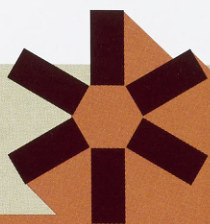
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